

Options for Early Implementation of New Infant Meal Pattern

For the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)

USDA Final Rule *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*

School food authorities (SFAs) must choose one option for all infants enrolled in the school district or institution. SFAs with multiple schools or institutions must choose the same option for all schools and institutions. For more information, see CSDE [Operational Memo No. 12-16](#).

Meal Pattern for Infants (0-11 Months)

OPTION 1 – Specific Provisions: *These five provisions of the updated NSLP and SBP infant meal pattern requirements are consistent with the current infant meal pattern, and can be implemented at any time prior to October 1, 2017, whenever feasible for the SFA. SFAs can choose to implement **any or all** of the five provisions of option 1.*

1. Reimburses infant meals when the mother breastfeeds on site.
2. Allows yogurt, whole eggs, and ready-to-eat cereals with no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce for developmentally ready infants.
3. Requires a vegetable or fruit, or both, to be served at snack for infants ages 6-11 months.
4. Eliminates fruit juice as a creditable component in the infant meal pattern.
5. Eliminates cheese food and cheese spread as creditable components in the infant meal pattern.

OPTION 2 – Entire Meal Pattern: *These three provisions of the updated NSLP and SBP infant meal pattern are inconsistent with the current infant pattern. After attending training in winter 2017, SFAs may request approval from the CSDE to implement the **entire** updated infant meal pattern (provisions 1-8) prior to October 1, 2017, including the five provisions of option 1 and the three provisions of option 2.*

6. Requires breast milk and infant formula for infants from birth through 5 months.
7. Requires two age groups instead of three: 0-5 months and 6-11 months.
8. Requires solid foods to be gradually introduced around 6 months of age, as developmentally appropriate.

OPTION 3 – No Changes: *Continue to implement the current NSLP and SBP infant meal pattern without any changes through September 30, 2017, and begin full implementation of the new infant meal pattern (all eight provisions of options 1 and 2) on October 1, 2017.*

Additional crediting guidance will be provided at the CSDE training beginning in winter 2017.

MEAL PATTERN RESOURCES

Final Rule: *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* (USDA): www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-25/pdf/2016-09412.pdf

NEW Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns: Infant Meals (USDA): www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cacfp/CACFP_infantmealstandards.pdf

Nutrition Standards for CACFP Meals and Snacks (USDA): www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks

USDA Memo SP 42-2016 and CACFP 14-2016: *Early Implementation of the Updated CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements and the NSLP and SBP Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*: www.fns.usda.gov/early-implementation-updated-cacfp-meal-pattern-requirements-and-nslp-and-sbp-infant-and-preschool

USDA Memo CACFP 15-2016: *Optional Best Practices to Further Improve Nutrition in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Pattern*: www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/optional-best-practices-further-improve-nutrition-child-and-adult-care-food-program-meal-pattern



For more information contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

This handout is available at www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/cacfp/mp/earlyimpopt2.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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